

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the patent application.

Claim 1 (original): A punch device comprising:

a punch including a punch station formed with a slit into which a sheet to be punched is to be inserted and a guide hole for guiding a punching blade in a direction intersecting with the slit, the punching blade to be guided by the guide hole, an operating section for operating the punching blade, and a housing which accommodates the punch station and the punching blade and which is formed with an opening in which the operating section is disposed; and a punch auxiliary tool having a pair of arms rising from both sides of the station and a pressing operating member which is pivotally supported by the arms, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

an inserting/detaching opening ~~for opening~~, which is capable of inserting and detaching the punch in such a state that a side where the slit is formed is directed to a side where the pressing operating section is pivotally supported, is formed on a side on the side where the pressing operating section is pivotally supported, a lower surface of the pressing operating member of the punch auxiliary tool is provided with a pressing section which presses the operating section inserted from the inserting/detaching opening.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The punch device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in a state where the operating section of the punching blade is disposed in the opening of the housing, the punch station and the punching blade are accommodated in the housing such that the operating section ~~of the operating section~~ is substantially flush with an upper surface of the housing.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The punch device according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the punch has a guide wall suspending from a periphery of the opening of the housing for guiding the operating section of the punching blade.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The punch device according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the station of the punch auxiliary tool is provided with a holding portion for holding the punch disposed below the pressing section of the pressing operating member.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The punch device according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized by claim 1,~~ further comprising a positioning tool including a mounting stage on which the sheet to be punched is placed, and sheet holding means for holding the sheet to be punched placed on the mounting stage, wherein

a to-be-retained portion provided on the punch or punch auxiliary tool is engaged with a retaining portion provided on the positioning tool, and a punching position in the sheet to be punched is set.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The punch device according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a ruler is mounted on a mounting stage of the positioning tool, the ruler member includes a ruler portion against which an end edge of the sheet to be punched can abut, the ruler member can turn toward its back surface from a position where a surface of the mounting stage is substantially flush, the end edge of the mounting stage which is exposed when the ruler member is turned toward the back surface of the mounting stage is provided with the retaining portion.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The punch device according to ~~claim 5 or 6, characterized in that claim 5, wherein~~ the retaining portion comprises a plurality of the retaining portions arranged along the end edge of the mounting stage at equal distances from one another.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The punch device according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ a retaining position of the to-be-retained portion which is engaged with the retaining portion can be changed selectively.